

Report on the 24th AH AAC meeting, September 13th, 2023, at NATA's Melbourne Offices

Changes to the Committee's membership are necessary following the resignations of Dr Terry Miller and Dr Kevin Doyle. Expressions of interest will be sought to fill these positions.

During the committee meeting, the following topics were discussed:

- NATA accreditation has been unable to enter the veterinary clinic space. The demand for accredited testing is not a primary factor in the selection of a private veterinary clinic. The potential avenue for entry into this market could be Point of Care Testing (POCT), and NATA will closely observe the outcomes of a working group focused on exploring the requirements for POCT.
- There has been an increase in the utilisation of overseas-based pathologists to make diagnosis from data generated in NATA accredited facilities. Concerns were raised that this may contravene the Veterinary Acts in the States and Territories, which mandate that Veterinarians must be registered in the State or Territory where the work is undertaken or reported.
- The introduction of electrochemical biosensors in aquaculture is enhancing risk management for fish health. However, challenges may arise during the validation process if accreditation is sought for the use of biosensors.
- Developments in antimicrobial resistance testing are providing a wide array of information.
- There is a risk of encouraging frontline use of antibiotics in agriculture if data on detections becomes accessible.
- The Committee acknowledged ongoing efforts to assess the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on accreditation. Members will assess how this is affecting their respective fields and report back to NATA.